

A GODLY RESPONSE TO BIBLICAL PREACHING, Part 2 - Acts 13:45-52 – March 9th, 2008

- Here Luke records for us, a sermon preached in the synagogue by the Apostle Paul, on his first missionary journey in Pisidian Antioch.
- It's interesting that not only does Luke record what Paul preached, he also records details of their response to what Paul preached.
- I suppose you could say that this study is sort of a "template" or "grid" with which to place on our Christian lives to see where we're at.

1. **Wanting to hear more (Verses 42)** - They were so ministered to that they begged them to come back so they could hear more.
2. **Continuing on in God's grace (Verse 43)** - Paul and Barnabas urge them and encourage them to continue in the Grace of God.
3. **Choosing to hear God's Word (Verse 44)** - The next week, almost the whole city chose to come and hear God's Word preached.

4. **Anticipating the opposition (Verse 45)**

45 When the Jews saw the crowds, **they were filled with jealousy and talked abusively against what Paul was saying.**
v45 Says that when the Jews saw the crowds they became jealous and spoke slanderously and abusively against what Paul was saying.
- When God uses you, Satan abuses you. The Apostle Paul writing to the church in Philippi, tells them to anticipate this kind of opposition.

Philippians 1:27-28 27 Whatever happens, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ. Then, whether I come and see you or only hear about you in my absence, I will know that you stand firm in one spirit, contending as one man for the faith of the gospel 28 without being frightened in any way by those who oppose you. This is a sign to them that they will be destroyed, but that you will be saved-and that by God NIV

5. **Understanding the rejection (Verses 46-47)**

46 Then Paul and Barnabas answered them boldly: "We had to speak the word of God to you first. **Since you reject it and do not consider yourselves worthy of eternal life**, we now turn to the Gentiles. 47 For this is what the Lord has commanded us: "'I have made you a light for the Gentiles, that you may bring salvation to the ends of the earth.'"
v46 Paul and Barnabas answer the opposition boldly by telling them that since they rejected God's Word, they have gone to the Gentiles.
v47 They go onto say that the Lord commanded them and made them a light for the Gentiles to bring salvation to the ends of the earth.
- Paul understood "that" there would be rejection, and even, "why" there would be rejection, when he wrote to the Thessalonians.

1 Thessalonians 4:8 Therefore, he who rejects this instruction does not reject man but God, who gives you his Holy Spirit.

6. **Honoring of God's Word (Verse 48)**

48 When the Gentiles heard this, **they were glad and honored the word of the Lord**; and all who were appointed for eternal life believed.
v48 Tells us that when the Gentiles and those appointed for eternal life heard this, they respond with gladness and honored God's Word.
- Really there are three responses here, woven into the fabric of this one verse;
- 1. They were glad, 2. They honored God's Word, and 3. They believed, all as a response to when they heard the Bible preached.

Psalms 138:2 I will bow down toward your holy temple and will praise your name for your love and your faithfulness, for you have exalted above all things your name and your word. NIV

7. **Expecting a persecution (Verses 49-50)**

49 The word of the Lord spread through the whole region. 50 But the Jews incited the God-fearing women of high standing and the leading men of the city. **They stirred up persecution against Paul and Barnabas, and expelled them from their region.**
v49-50 God's Word spreads through the whole region, and as can be expected, the Jews incited some of them to stir up persecution.
- The persecution against Paul and Barnabas leads to their expulsion from that area known as the region of Galatia.

2 Timothy 3:12 Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution. KJV

8. **Filling with joy and the Holy Spirit (Verses 51-52)**

51 So they shook the dust from their feet in protest against them and went to Iconium. 52 And **the disciples were filled with joy and with the Holy Spirit.**
v51 Tells us that after being kicked out of that city, they shook the dust from their feet in protest against them and went to Iconium.
v52 Says that the disciples were filled with joy and with the Holy Spirit as a result of and response to all that had happened there.

Psalms 119:111 Your statutes are my heritage forever; they are the joy of my heart. NIV